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statutory prices from without and constituted an advisory body called ' The Guntur District Tobacco Minimum Prices Fixation Advisory Committee ' consisting of the representatives of the tobacco trade and growers for negotiating agreements between them and for fixing minimum as well as fair prices for tobacco. The Collector of Guntur, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Guntur, and a representative of the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee are also members of this Committee. The Committee fixes minimum prices for every season and submits reports to Government.''

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—'' అయ్యా, ఇటీవల పండదార చెఱకుకు కనీసధర నిర్ణయించినప్పుడు రైతులకు చాలా అన్యాయం చేశారు. పుగాకుకు కనీస ధర నిర్ణయించేటప్పుడైనా అలాంటి అన్యాయం జరుగకుండా రైతులయొక్క వ్యవసాయ ఖర్చులు వగైరాలను ప్రభుత్వము జాగ్రత్తగా అంచనా వేసి, రైతుకు గిట్టుబాటయ్యేటట్టు పుగాకు ధరలు నిర్ణయిస్తుందా ? ''

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—'' No complaint against fixation of minimum price for tobacco has been received by the Government.''

SRI K. VENKAIAH :—'' 1947 వ సంవత్సరములో advisory committee ని వేసినపుడు అనాటి మంత్రిగారు ఈ కమిటీని తాత్కాలికంగా వేస్తున్నామని, కమిటీ పనిని పరిశీలించి statutory provisions చేస్తామని హామీయివ్వటం, ఆ విషయాన్ని సూచనప్రాయంగా G.O. లో కొంతవరకు సూచించటం జరిగిన తరువాత ఆ హామీని భంగపరుస్తూ, statutory provisions అవసరము లేదనటము సరిగాదని మంత్రిగారు గుర్తిస్తారా ? ''

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—'' The Price Fixation Committee has not been doing adequate good work and the Government have not yet felt it necessary to put it on a statutory basis.''

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—'' May I know from the Hon. Minister the basis on which the minimum prices for tobacco are fixed by the Committee? ''

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—'' Usually the cost of cultivation of tobacco is taken into consideration.''

Guntur Tobacco Market Committee.

* 91 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government proposed in 1947 the extension of the activities of the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee to the groundnut crop also and if so, the reasons for delaying and dropping out that proposal?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—'' Yes. Again in December 1951 the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee submitted proposals for including groundnut within its jurisdiction. The growers and traders of groundnut and also the public were consulted on the proposal. It was understood that many of the traders and even the growers and a very large

section of the public were not in favour of the proposal. The growers for whose benefit alone a regulated market is established, were against the proposal. Further, the Government considered that as there was a lot of work to be done by the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee in regard to tobacco marketing under the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, its hands were already full and that if groundnut also was brought within its scope the Committee would be unable to cope with the additional work and thereby the groundnut trade would suffer. The Government, it may be recalled, ordered the introduction of the system of auction sales of tobacco by the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee from 1951 onwards. Being an important scheme, the Committee has to pay special attention to it in order to ensure its success. In the above circumstances, the Government considered that it was inopportune to notify groundnut in respect of the Guntur notified area and therefore postponed the proposal indefinitely."

Sri T. Nagi Reddi :—" Tobacco Marketing Committee కి, groundnut market ను యిచ్చినట్లయితే నష్టము కలిగిస్తుందని భావిస్తే groundnut crop కు సంబంధించినటువంటి ఒక committee ని నియమించటానికి ప్రభుత్వం యేమైనా చర్య తీసుకున్నదా? యితర జిల్లాలలో కూడా ఇటువంటి Marketing Committee లను నిర్వరచటానికి ప్రభుత్వం ఏమైనా ఆలోచిస్తున్నదా? "

The Hon. Dr. R. Nagan Gouda :—" Groundnut has been notified in other districts and I know it has been working satisfactorily. But, here the important thing is there has not been enough demand from the growers themselves. Usually a produce is notified when there is a large demand from the producers. If such demand comes from the producers, I think it would be included."

Setting up of a tobacco re-drying plant at Guntur.

* 92 Q.—Sri K. Venkaiah : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Guntur Tobacco Market Committee requested the State Government for a loan or contribution towards the construction of a building to house a tobacco re-drying plant ; and

(b) the action the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon. Dr. R. Nagan Gouda :—" (a) Yes. The Guntur Tobacco Market Committee asked in June 1951 for a loan of Rs. 3,10,000 under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act for construction of buildings, etc., for erecting the tobacco re-drying plant in its yard.

" (b) The Committee proposed to purchase the re-drying plant from the Indian Central Tobacco Committee which had decided earlier to establish the plant at Guntur. Owing to